

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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APRIL 27, 1953

Italy's Election Is Drawing Near

De Gasperi Government Faces Tough Struggle, but May Benefit by New Law

IN the smoky, industrial cities of Italy's Po Valley, political candidates are making noisy speeches outside factory gates. In the dreary, little villages to the south, party workers are plastering political posters on stone walls that date back to the time of Caesar. The first national political campaign in five years is now going full blast in Italy.

On June 7, Italian voters will choose a new parliament. The group which wins the election will select the premier, who will then appoint his cabinet and take charge of the government. Thus, the coming election has the same importance to Italy that last November's balloting had to the United States.

The campaign now in progress is attracting a good deal of attention in the United States and other western lands. Under the leadership of Premier Alcide de Gasperi, Italy's government has cooperated closely with the western nations during the postwar years. To do so, it has had to withstand repeated attacks from the largest communist group outside a communist-ruled country. Now the communists and other groups are laying plans to upset the de Gasperi government at the polls.

A study of the political lineup in Italy shows that the present government cannot afford to take the election campaign lightly. There is sizable opposition to the ruling group.

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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF (left to right): General Lawton Collins of the Army; General Hoyt Vandenberg of the Air Force; General Omar Bradley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs; and Admiral William Fichteler of the Navy

Defense Problems Examined

Nation Has Made Considerable Progress in Building Military Strength, Although Numerous Observers Think We Still Aren't Moving Fast Enough

PRESIDENT Eisenhower, though he no longer wears a general's uniform, must now handle some of the toughest military problems of his long career. He is the man who must make final decisions (subject to congressional approval) on the size and nature of our country's defense effort. The responsibility that rests upon his shoulders is tremendous.

He doesn't want an overgrown defense establishment which would put an unnecessarily large financial burden upon U. S. taxpayers. On the other hand he knows that inadequate armed forces would mean risk of defeat in war.

He also knows that the peaceful gestures which Russia has been making in recent weeks do absolutely nothing—as yet—to reduce our defense needs. Russia's military power—her

ability to make war—remains undiminished. And we still do not know if, how, or when she expects to use it.

Ever since our new administration took office, Eisenhower and his advisers have been reviewing America's defense plans in an effort to see how well we are now protected and what our further military needs may be.

What has been the general pattern of our country's defense efforts since World War II?

When that conflict ended, we demobilized at what is now regarded as a disastrously rapid rate. The U. S. armed services, which possessed a combined strength of 12¼ million men and women early in 1945, dwindled to about 1½ million by 1947. Our wartime selective service law was allowed to expire in 1947. Expenditures on

the U. S. armed forces fell from 84½ billion dollars for the year ending in June 1945 to an annual rate of roughly 12 billion dollars during the late 1940's.

It is now widely agreed that we should never have let our defense effort drop so sharply. Many people condemn former President Truman for the fact that so great a decline took place. Many others believe the mood of the country was such, after World War II, that no President could have succeeded in keeping our defenses at a very high level. Most Americans, it is argued, were tired of war and would have unalterably opposed carrying a heavy military burden.

As Russia became increasingly unfriendly, our interest in national defense started to revive. In 1948, for instance, Congress passed a new selective service law. In general, however, we took no major steps toward rebuilding U. S. defenses until the Korean conflict broke out in the summer of 1950.

Then we began to increase the size of our armed forces, to produce more and more weapons and other military equipment, and—of course—to spend more money on national defense. We are now spending for this purpose at the rate of about 45 billion dollars per year.

How successful have we been in the military build-up that began after the outbreak of war in Korea?

There is disagreement on this point. Many people think our armed forces are still smaller and weaker than they should be. Others say we have been making satisfactory progress. It is a fact that we have gone a long way, but nobody can tell with any assurance whether we have gone far enough. In any case, here are some of the things that have been accomplished:

The U. S. armed forces, which consisted of fewer than 1½ million men and women when the Korean war be-

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The Hard Road to Excellence

By Walter E. Myer



Walter E. Myer

THE good student, the one whose grades are high, who does more work than he needs to do, finds many difficulties in his way. Not only must he conquer himself and give up many pleasures which he would like to enjoy, but he must also overcome the jealousy of his associates.

The associates of a good student may not really want to hurt him. They simply don't want him to get ahead of them. They see him surging forward in the classroom. They would like to make as good a scholastic record as he is achieving, but they put on an "I don't care" act, and pretend that good grades mean nothing to them.

The jealous students cannot tolerate the respect which teachers have and show for the boy or girl who does a good job at his or her studies. The envious youths could do much better work

themselves—if they wished hard enough. But they don't want to pay the price. They want to get for nothing what the successful student has achieved in the course of months or even years. So they try to get the superior student down to their level.

They call the good student a "book-worm." They make fun of him for spending too much time at his work when he might be enjoying himself in athletic or social activities. Often, such a campaign succeeds. Many a student drops from excellence to mediocrity rather than to pay what seems to be the price of real leadership.

The fact is, of course, that no one needs to make a definite choice between the library and enjoyment. If one very carefully budgets his time, he will be able to do good school work and still give considerable time to athletics and other pleasures. But he can and must fix his goals and move toward them regardless of the destructive efforts of

the mediocre students who seek to pull him down.

One of the first jobs is to choose friends wisely. Associate chiefly with those whose interests are similar to your own. These friends will stand by you through thick and thin, and you will give them equal support. Together you and they will decide upon the time to be given to work and play; which pleasures are to be chosen and which should be dropped.

Be friendly to all; snobbish toward none. See that you do not deserve the taunts of some who may seem not to care for you. At the same time, budget your time as you do your spending money. Be agreeable to those who do not obstruct your course, but ignore those who want you to fail.

If you divide your time properly between work and recreation, you will enjoy both more than you will by neglecting one or the other. This is true in school and in all walks of life.



CHARLES E. WILSON, Secretary of Defense, is in charge of our nation's armed forces

U. S. Defense

(Concluded from page 1)

gan, now have over 3½ million. There are now 1½ million in the Army alone, along with 808,000 in the Navy, 236,000 in the Marines, and 960,000 in the Air Force. In addition to these, the Defense Department has about 1½ million civilian workers.

At the beginning of 1953 we were producing military supplies and equipment seven times as fast as when the Korean war started. Aircraft factories recently were turning out a thousand military planes per month. They were producing jet planes at five times the mid-1950 rate. Between the start of the Korean war and the beginning of 1953, we had constructed 49 new fighting ships and rebuilt 228 old ones.

Meanwhile we have boosted the productive capacity of our industries, so that they could pour out a flood of weapons if world war should occur. We can now produce steel at an annual rate of at least 116 million tons, compared with 100 million tons when the Korean conflict started. It is estimated that we shall be able to produce twice as much aluminum in June 1954 as we could make in June 1950. We can now turn out roughly 30 per cent more electric current than when the fighting began in Korea.

Constant efforts are being made to improve our weapons. A recent advertisement by the United Aircraft Corporation says: "Today your Air Force has bombers with twice the range, 1½ times the speed, 3 times the bombload, and the ability to fly much higher than World War II's biggest, the B-29."

In addition, we have developed anti-aircraft guns that do practically all their work automatically by radar, and fighter planes equipped with weapons that aim and fire themselves. We have produced an artillery piece to shoot atomic shells, and have begun work on atomic-powered submarines. We have given the average fighting infantry division 75 per cent more firepower than it had during World War II, while giving it only 30 per cent more men.

At what rate are men now being drafted into the armed forces?

Recently the rate has been 53,000 per month, and this is the number scheduled to be taken during May. In June, 32,000 are to go. As most high school students well know, young men of 18½ through 25 can be called into the armed services for as much as

two years of active duty—according to present law.

There are liberal deferment provisions for students, men with dependents and holders of certain essential jobs. However, if draft quotas make a heavy drain on the supply of available men, these deferment provisions may need to be tightened.

There is quite a lot of controversy about the regulations which allow men to postpone their military service in order to attend college. Many people think these rules give an unfair advantage to those who are financially able to continue their education beyond high school. Others favor the system, because it encourages young men to attend college and acquire skills that will eventually enable them to do essential jobs in our nation's industries.

What are some of the weaknesses and defects that have appeared in our defense effort?

There is much disappointment over our slowness to achieve victory in Korea. This failure, though, cannot be entirely blamed on defects in the mobilization program. One important reason why our troops in Korea have been held back is that American and other UN leaders, rightly or wrongly, have sought to avoid "tough" policies that might expand the Korean war into a larger conflict.

On the other hand, much has been heard during recent weeks about complaints that our troops in Korea haven't received enough ammunition. General James A. Van Fleet, former commander of UN ground forces in the Korean war, says his men sometimes had severe shortages of grenades and several kinds of shells.

Investigation by a congressional committee has indicated that our defense chiefs in Washington failed to realize how long the Korean conflict might last. At first they assumed that it could be fought mainly with the huge ammunition supplies that were

less costly and also more effective.

One research group recently declared that the armed services could—by streamlining office and administrative work—eliminate 10 per cent of their military and civilian personnel without cutting down on their fighting strength. Numerous defense officials deny this.

Defense Secretary Charles Wilson has already ordered the Army, Navy, and Air Force to drop about 40,000 of their civilian employees by the end of May. This order has caused a great deal of protest within Mr. Wilson's department.

What major changes in the defense program are now being considered?

As these lines are written, President Eisenhower has not set forth any detailed plan on future defense policies or military spending. Nevertheless, he and his helpers are thinking about various new ideas.

There has been considerable controversy on a proposal—apparently favored by Defense Secretary Wilson—for reducing the number of factories at work on defense production. At present, our country's output of military goods is spread over a large number of plants—most of them working at far below their top capacity.

This comes from a deliberate plan of the Truman administration. Mr. Truman and his advisers thought it would be wise to have a large number of factories tooled up for war production, and to have each of them running at only partial capacity. In case of all-out war, each of these factories could soon expand its output to the limit, and our weapons production would shoot upward.

Secretary Wilson, it is reported, thinks it is wasteful and unnecessary to have so many plants operating at less than full speed. He apparently would rather put the nation's military production in a somewhat smaller number of factories, and count more upon

the Air Force, is deeply dissatisfied with our military progress. When the Korean war got under way, he says, we Americans were told "that we could handle this new Soviet aggression with one hand, while we piled the other hand high with butter and automobiles and television sets."

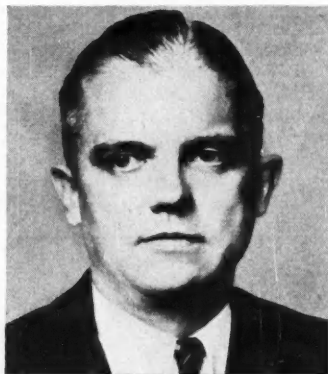
"Now," he continues, "the administration has changed. But one thing has not changed. The policy of butter and guns has not shifted in favor of guns . . . I do not believe this policy is right. Nor would the American people believe it right if they knew the truth."

Symington asks whether our country, at its present rate of mobilization, will be ready to fight and win in case Russia launches a world war. And he concludes: "The answer, in my opinion, is no—and I believe the facts prove it."

Defense Secretary Charles Wilson does not appear to feel that our defenses are in an unsatisfactory condition. In recent weeks Wilson has been devoting much of his attention to ways of economizing and of cutting the defense budget, rather than to any plans for stepping up our military effort. This seems to show that he does not regard our nation as inadequately protected.

It is hard for the ordinary citizen, without access to full information on our own strength and that of the Soviet Union, to judge who is right in this controversy. Yet each person must try to gather such facts as he can, to form an opinion, and to express it, because the adequacy of our defenses may mean the difference between life and death to millions of our citizens and to the nation itself.

President Dwight Eisenhower recently stated that we and our allies "must, at any cost, remain armed, strong, and ready for any risk of war." He went on to express hope that the war threat can eventually be ended, and that the money and mate-



CIVILIAN HEADS of three divisions of the Department of Defense (left to right): Secretaries Robert Stevens of the Army, Robert Anderson of the Navy, Harold Talbott of the Air Force. They serve under Defense Department Secretary Charles E. Wilson.

left over from World War II. When they finally got around to ordering new shells for Korea, production was slow in getting under way.

The congressional probe into ammunition shortages has put the spotlight on some of the cumbersome office procedures that our government uses. It was revealed that an order for the purchase of ammunition must go through more than 40 offices, and through a process consisting of about 200 steps. This process sometimes takes nearly 300 days. Most authorities believe that the amount of paper work and "red tape" in our defense establishment could be greatly reduced, so as to make the armed forces

our ability to switch other plants quickly from peacetime to wartime output in case of emergency. President Eisenhower's view on this issue is not yet known.

Is our defense program adequate?

Some authorities say it is not. They point out that Russia produces military planes faster than we do, and is considerably improving the quality of her aircraft. Though we apparently still lead in the atomic weapons race, there is no way of knowing how large a stockpile of bombs Russia may be accumulating.

Senator Stuart Symington of Missouri, who once served as Secretary of

rials now devoted to military preparations can then go for more constructive purposes.

But, said the President, we cannot relax until Russia shows "sincerity of peaceful purpose—attested by deeds." Mr. Eisenhower listed a number of "clear and specific acts" through which the Soviet Union could prove that she really means business when she talks about wanting to promote peace. (See note on page 5.)

Not until such proof has been given through the settlement of various international disputes, said the President, can we proceed with reducing "the burden of armaments now weighing upon the world."

Readers Say—

In a past issue of your paper there was an article on the exchange of foreign students. Our class in American history really enjoyed that article because we have two exchange students in our school. They are Miss Heilwig Juhl and Miss Ingrid Mueller. Both of them are from West Germany, after having fled from Red-controlled areas of their country.

Our guest students cooperate wholeheartedly with us in school and in community activities. We are pleased to have them with us.

THE AMERICAN HISTORY CLASS,
Madisonville, Kentucky

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In my opinion, former President Harry Truman's foreign policies were sound. He carried out a policy of "live and let live" and of stopping the spread of communism. President Dwight Eisenhower's "get tough" program in international affairs, I believe, is too risky at this time.

CARL PATTERSON,
De Soto, Missouri

★

I agree wholeheartedly with President Eisenhower's new foreign policies. In the past, we waited for the Russians to make a move before taking action ourselves. Now we are assuming the lead in world affairs.

STEPHEN PAUL,
De Soto, Missouri

★

I believe that more young people ought to follow the lead of Chicago's teen-agers in working out plans for safe driving among students.

DOROTHY ISHAM,
Morrisville, Vermont

★

A reader recently said in a letter that the release of German war criminals would improve relations between Germany and the United States. I think such a move would be unwise. Having recently come here from Europe, I know that my overseas friends would strongly oppose any plan to release war criminals. The U. S. would lose many European friends by agreeing to such a plan.

RALPH SZWARC,
Syracuse, New York

★

We strongly disagree with President Eisenhower's policies regarding our civil service. Does our Chief Executive want to go back to the old "Spoils System"? The way we see it, the people who hold



government jobs under civil service and are qualified should not be removed for political reasons.

DONNA BALDWIN and
LADONNA TAMBKA,
Hebron, Nebraska

★

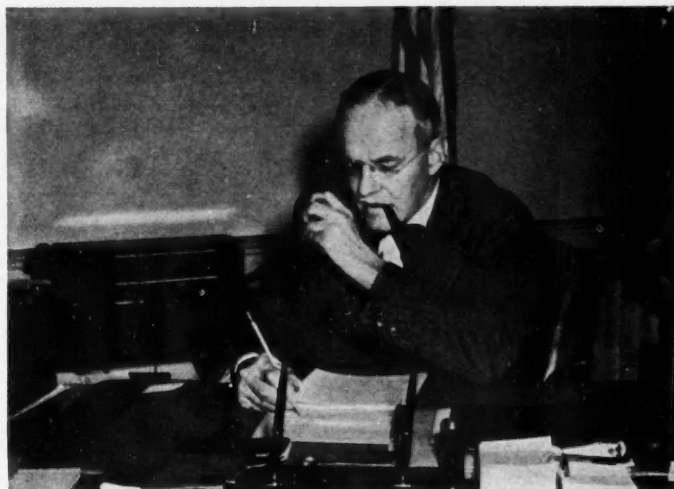
I think the President is justified in removing certain people from government posts, particularly if they are not efficient workers. The civil service system should not be used to keep incompetent persons on Uncle Sam's payroll. I also believe that war veterans ought to be given preference over non-veterans when seeking public jobs.

DOLLY HUGHES,
Greenfield, Virginia

★

Isn't Soviet jamming of our overseas radio programs proof that our Voice of America broadcasts are doing a good job? I think it is. I'm all for building bigger and better Voice of America transmitters.

RUTH ANN HOLLAND,
Onsted, Michigan



ALLEN DULLES, brother of Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, heads the Central Intelligence Agency—which collects information on enemy nations

SERVING THE NATION

The Central Intelligence Agency

This is the thirteenth in a series of special features on important government offices and the men and women who run them. This week's article deals with the Central Intelligence Agency and its director, Allen Dulles.

Allen Dulles, like his 65-year-old elder brother, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, has been interested in foreign affairs throughout most of his lifetime. When Allen was only eight years old, he wrote a prize-winning essay on the Boer War between Britain and the Dutch settlers in South Africa.

Born 60 years ago in Watertown, New York, he studied international affairs at Princeton University. His first job took him to India as a teacher of English in a church mission school. In 1916, Dulles returned home to enter the U. S. foreign service. That year, at the age of 23, he worked with other American undercover agents in an effort to break off Austria's partnership with our World War I enemy, Germany.

At the close of that conflict, Dulles stayed on in Europe for a time to help work out a peace settlement. He continued to serve the nation in diplomatic posts at home and abroad until 1926. Then he became a partner in a law firm specializing in international cases.

At the outbreak of World War II, Uncle Sam called on a number of foreign affairs experts for special intelligence work. Dulles was one of the first Americans to be recruited for a new office set up at that time—the Office of Strategic Services. The OSS was a special agency organized to carry out espionage, counter-espionage, and other undercover activities against the enemy.

Dulles continued to be active in intelligence work after the war ended. About three years ago, he went to work for the CIA. Then, last January, President Dwight Eisenhower named Dulles chief of that agency.

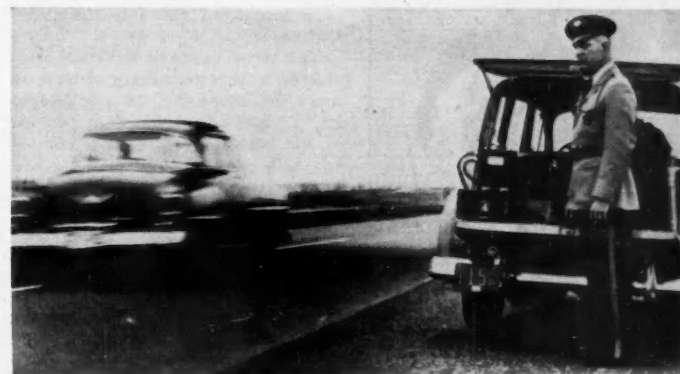
The CIA, which was set up in 1947, acts as the eyes and the ears of the executive branch of our government. Dulles meets frequently with President Eisenhower and other top officials to give them special information collected by the CIA. When these top leaders meet as a group, they are

known as the National Security Council. They help formulate our over-all policies dealing with foreign affairs and national security.

The "Silent Service," as Dulles' agency is sometimes called, is the central clearing house for overseas intelligence collected by the Departments of State and Defense, and of other government offices. The CIA also has a secret organization of its own for collecting information on the activities of Russia and other nations.

The organization and work of the CIA are covered by a tight cloak of secrecy. Even the amount of money that the agency spends each year is a closely guarded secret. But the CIA is believed to have between 10,000 and 15,000 people on its payroll at home and abroad. Its central headquarters are hard to find, because its offices are scattered over some 30 or more buildings in the nation's capital.

Though the CIA has undercover agents at work in many parts of the globe, a big share of its workers carry out jobs that are not of the "cloak-and-dagger" kind. They go over bales of newspapers, magazines, and similar materials from other countries, in search of useful information. They question immigrants, refugees, travelers, and anyone else who may come into contact with people of other nations. One large group listens in on all overseas radio broadcasts to track down vital information for Uncle Sam.



NEW JERSEY STATE POLICE use station wagons with radar devices to check the speed of cars. Fast drivers are stopped and given speeding tickets.

Science News

SEVEN sculptured and ornamented human skulls, relics of persons who died 7,000 years ago, have been unearthed in the ancient city of Jericho. They were found between the walls and beneath the floor of an old structure 10 feet below the surface.

The best preserved specimens have a realistic look which the prehistoric artists had given each by means of a plaster-like substance on which they had modeled lifelike features. This was probably one of the earliest known attempts at naturalistic modeling. In addition such details as painted eyebrows and eyelashes and sculptured nostrils were still visible on several skulls.

British and American archaeologists who uncovered the skulls say they are the most important scientific archaeological discovery in modern times. Members of the expedition believe the heads were possibly those of kings or men in high places.

★ ★ ★

The world's fastest earthbound test laboratory runs over nearly two miles of track in the California desert. The tracks look very much like the rails that a train runs over, but no train ever ran as fast as the engine on these rails. They are used by a rocket engine which streaks along at more than 1,500 miles an hour.

The rocket engine or "sled" as it is called, is operated by North American Aviation Company and the U. S. Air Force to test instruments and materials at supersonic speeds. The engine gauges the effect of high speeds and fast stops on human beings—although it is not claimed that any humans have ridden the device—and to test parachutes for use in bailing out of jet planes.

The engine is powered by a fuel of mixed oxygen and alcohol. It has a pickup that in 4.5 seconds can make the engine go from a dead stop to 1,500 m.p.h., using 5,500 of the 10,000 feet of track. It takes the rest of the distance to decelerate with the help of a drag scoop which dips into a water trough.

★ ★ ★

People learning to drive should be involved in fewer accidents now if a device recently patented is put in use. It is a platform which will hold an automobile in one place while a person is learning to drive. Rollers hold the wheels while they are in motion and being turned by the student.

The Story of the Week

Not So Peaceful Here

The tiny kingdom of Laos, one of three lands which make up Indochina, is the latest victim of Red aggression. Communist rebels, led by Ho Chi Minh, invaded Laos earlier this month.

Before the recent march into Laos, Ho and his band of rebels had fought chiefly in Viet Nam, a long, narrow land on the eastern coast of Indochina. The Viet Name, with French help, have been struggling to overcome this communist menace for nearly seven years now.

Laos lies west of Viet Nam, and has frontiers with Red China, Burma, Thailand, and a third Indochinese state, Cambodia. Because of its strategic location, Laos is sometimes called the "crossroads of southeast Asia." It is ruled by Crown Prince Tia Savang Vathayana and a legislative body. All three Indochinese lands—Viet Nam, Laos, and Cambodia—are partly independent and are under French supervision and protection.

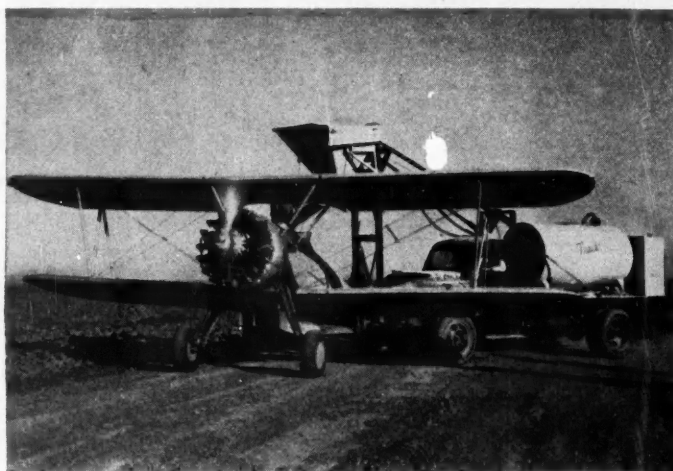
Laos is a wild and mountainous state. It has about a million people, including a number of primitive tribes. Some of these tribes are throwing in their lot with Ho's rebels, though most other Laotians are behind their government in its fight against the Reds.

The land is rich in mineral and lumber resources which, as yet, have hardly been tapped. Most inhabitants of Laos make a livelihood as lumberjacks and farmers.

Alcide de Gasperi

From now until his people go to the polls next June, Italy's Premier Alcide de Gasperi will do all he can to win votes for his Christian Democratic Party. The Italian leader hopes the voters will ask him and his party to continue the job of trying to put Italy on her feet. (See page 1 story.)

Born 72 years ago in Trentino, a small area in northeast Italy which was then a part of the Austrian Empire, de Gasperi entered politics early in life. At the age of 17 he joined a political group which agitated for



THE AIRPLANE is a fast planter. A California rancher uses this plane to plant crops. He can easily seed 300 to 400 acres of barley in a day.

the union of Trentino with Italy. Because of these activities, the Austrians imprisoned him for a short time. When he was released from jail, he went to the University of Vienna to study law.

After World War I, de Gasperi's dream was realized—Trentino was annexed to Italy. He was then elected to represent his home territory in the Italian legislature. But when Mussolini's fascists took over Italy's government in 1922, de Gasperi was forced to retire from public life.

During the 1920's and the 1930's he managed to keep an anti-Mussolini movement alive in Italy despite a close watch over his activities by fascist police. At the end of World War II, de Gasperi's supporters became the core of the postwar Christian Democratic Party—one of the biggest political groups in Italy today. The Italian leader first became the country's premier in 1945. He has led the Italian people most of the time since then.

Bureau of Standards

The Bureau of Standards dispute, which we have discussed in the last two issues of this paper, still appears to be far from settled. Secretary of Commerce Sinclair Weeks changed his mind about firing Dr. Allen Astin for the time being, and asked him to stay on for several months. Mr. Weeks now wants Dr. Astin to remain on the job until a group of scientists (from outside of the government) completes an investigation of the bureau, which is a branch of the Department of Commerce.

This development is generally considered to be a temporary victory, at least, for Dr. Astin. A month ago, he had been asked to resign because of his bureau's report on a powder which is intended to prolong the life of batteries. The bureau, after making tests, said this product has no "beneficial" effect.

Secretary Weeks, after weighing arguments on all sides of the case, sided with the manufacturer of the powder and against the bureau. He asked Dr. Astin to resign, but there was such a wave of protests from scientists and others that the Commerce chief withdrew his demand for Astin's resignation until an impartial

scientific survey has been made of the Bureau of Standards.

Congress was supposed to have begun an investigation of this whole controversy last week, but decided to put it off in view of Secretary Week's latest actions. The Federation of American Scientists has urged Congress to go ahead with its inquiry, but whether or not it will do so remains to be seen.

Headed for Washington

The governors of many states are now packing their things for a trip to Washington, D. C. They are on their way to a special White House meeting, scheduled for next Monday and Tuesday, with President Eisenhower.

Every governor—there are 18 Democratic and 30 GOP state chief executives—has been invited to the Washington parley. Not all of them, though, are certain that they can make the trip to the nation's capital next week.

The President isn't giving out any details on the forthcoming meeting, but he says that it will be a "briefing" get-together. The Chief Executive and his top assistants have indicated that they will explain America's foreign policy aims to the visiting governors, and tell them about the nation's defense needs. The President and the governors are also expected to discuss state-federal relations. Eisenhower, it is said, will ask the states to shoulder some of the work now being carried out by the national government.

Party Chairmen

Leonard Hall, the new Republican Party chairman, is getting his party ready for the 1954 congressional elections. As head of the GOP, he tries to keep all members of his party working as a team.

Politics is not new to Hall. It has been a part of his life almost from the time he was born 52 years ago. His father was a librarian at the White House when Theodore Roosevelt was President. It was then that young Hall decided on a political career.

He studied law at Georgetown University. After practicing law for a time, he won a seat in New York's legislative body. He also served as sheriff of his native Nassau County,

New York, for a period of four years.

In 1938, when a New York congressman died, Hall got the GOP nomination and won the election to a seat in the U. S. House of Representatives. He served on Capitol Hill from that time until the close of last year.

While Hall is busy with Republican Party affairs, Democratic Party Chairman Stephen Mitchell is guiding the activities of his party. Mitchell and other top Democratic leaders are now trying to decide whether to hold a big national party convention before the 1954 congressional elections.

Born 40 years ago in Iowa, lawyer Mitchell took over as chief of his party last August. He conducted U. S. War Bond campaigns during World War II, and later helped direct our aid program in France.

The Atom and Industry

What effect will the atom have on our industrial life if it is made available for private use? Businessmen are now discussing this question as the Atomic Energy Commission—a government agency that supervises the country's atomic activities—plans to make the new power available to the nation's industries.

Businessmen and scientists predict great things for atomic energy some years from now. But many of them doubt that the atom will be widely used as a source of power in our factories in the immediate future. They give the following explanation for their views:

"The cost of machines and raw materials needed for the production of atomic energy is too high to make it profitable for most industries to change over to the new source of power at this time. What's more, industrialists fear that today's expensive atomic machines may soon be out of date because of the rapid progress that is being made in this field.

"Then, there is also the problem of security. Since private atomic-powered plants would undoubtedly make use of secret processes, these factories would have to be closely guarded against enemy agents. The cost of maintaining such security programs would add to the expense of running plants using the atom.

"Finally, the quantity of raw materials needed for atomic energy is limited just now. After our defense needs are met, not much of the new power would be left over for private use."



AREA of latest communist attack in Indochina is shown by arrow on the map



LEONARD HALL, new chairman of the Republican National Committee



BATHERS IN HAWAII, a gay vacation land which is expected to become the 49th state in our Union before long

It's Up to Russia

The address which President Eisenhower delivered to a group of newspaper editors a short time ago has been hailed throughout the Free World as a splendid statement of foreign policy. In it, the Chief Executive emphasized our country's desire for peace, and urged the Soviet Union to join us in wiping out the threat of war.

Military preparations, Eisenhower said, put a tremendous burden upon both sides in today's world struggle. He explained:

"The cost of one modern heavy bomber is . . . a modern brick school in more than 30 cities. It is two electric power plants, each serving a town of 60,000. . . It is two fine, fully equipped hospitals."

Despite the cost, continued Mr. Eisenhower, we and our allies must continue to maintain powerful armed forces so long as the threat of Soviet aggression remains. He went on to say, however, that Russia could help reduce our arms burden—and her own—by showing that she really wants world peace.

He said Russia could show this by helping to bring an armistice in Korea, and to unite that country under a free government. She could show her peaceful intentions by agreeing to a treaty that would take Soviet and western troops out of Austria, and by ending the communist rebellions in Indochina and Malaya. She could help establish a free and united Germany.

After such steps had relieved world tensions, said the President, then we could proceed to work out ways of limiting national armament, and of prohibiting atomic weapons. We would need, of course, to provide fool-proof inspections and other safe-

guards against any country's violating the rules.

Finally, said President Eisenhower, we and other nations could join in "a new kind of war"—a war upon "the brute forces of poverty and need." For this purpose we could use "a substantial percentage of any savings achieved by disarmament."

Korea and Japan

Full-scale Korean armistice talks were scheduled to be resumed this past weekend. Despite hopes that have been shattered in the past, there is considerable optimism that maybe the communists are really ready to negotiate a truce this time.

In the recent Japanese elections, Premier Yoshida and his Liberal Party lost strength, but they still have more seats in the Diet (parliament) than any other political group. Since no party has a majority, however, two or more of them will have to cooperate to get anything done. Yoshida is a strong supporter of the U. S.

What Next, South Africa?

South Africa has been wondering about its future since Daniel Malan's Nationalists won a sweeping victory at the polls on April 15.

At present, South Africa's 2½ million whites and only a very small number of its 10 million colored people have the right to vote. It was the land's white inhabitants, therefore, that backed Malan at the polls.

The outcome of the election is expected to have a deep-seated effect on South Africa's dark-skinned people. Though both the United Party and the Nationalists advocate political restrictions on the country's Negroes, the opposition group supports the ex-

tension of franchise rights to some non-whites.

The Nationalists, on the other hand, want to (1) take away the voting rights of the few colored South Africans who now have the franchise; and (2) adopt strict new rules on what the Negroes can and cannot do.

Will the Nationalist election victory lead to more or less strife between the white and colored groups?

Unless unforeseen developments arise, the major domestic article next week will be on the making of foreign treaties. The leading foreign article will deal with Southeast Asia.

Your Vocabulary

In each sentence below, match the italicized word with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Correct answers are given on page 8, column 4.

1. Daniel Boone was an *intrepid* (in-trēh'pid) explorer. (a) fearless (b) experienced (c) part-time (d) skilled.
2. The girl had a *scintillating* (sin'til-ā-ting) personality. (a) pleasing (b) sparkling (c) displeasing (d) dull.
3. The book was about the *decadence* (dēk'uh-dēns) of ancient Rome. (a) decathlons (b) decades (c) decay (d) decorations.
4. He became increasingly *mercenary* (mēr'sē-nār-ē). (a) unkind and inconsiderate (b) lazy (c) greedy (d) unfriendly and aloof.
5. The criminal's story had a *modicum* (mōd'ih-kūm) of truth in it. (a) great deal (b) ring (c) fair amount (d) tiny bit.
6. The youngster entered the dark room with *trepidation* (trēh-pih-dā'shūn). (a) courage (b) fear (c) haste (d) care.
7. The man had a *callous* (kāl'ūs) outlook on life. (a) cheerful (b) hardened (c) misguided (d) sorrowful.
8. *Procrastination* (prō-krais-tin-ā'shūn) is a foolish habit. (a) cheating (b) playing truant (c) fighting (d) putting things off.

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THE LIGHTER SIDE

Sergeant: "Have you any preference?"
 Draftee: "Yes, sir."
 Sergeant: "What would you like to be?"
 Draftee: "An ex-service man with a pension."

Senior Partner: "Have you seen the cashier this morning?"
 Junior Partner: "Yes. He came in without his mustache and asked for a railroad timetable."

Mr. Wrangle: "Why does a woman say she's been shopping when she hasn't bought a thing?"

Mrs. Wrangle: "Why does a man say he's been fishing when he hasn't caught a thing?"

It is estimated that 89 per cent of the world's misinformation is introduced with the words: "Now let us look at the facts."

"What did you mean telling your boy friend that I was deaf and dumb?"
 "I didn't say deaf."

Teacher: "What is cowhide used for principally?"
 Johnny: "To help hold the cow together."

She: "The two things I can cook best are apple dumplings and meat loaf."
 He: "Which one is this?"



"Well, however it's pronounced—I want it."



BOOT-SHAPED ITALY, an ally in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, is an important Mediterranean defense base

Italian Voting

(Continued from page 1)

Like France, Italy has many political parties. They may be classified in three groupings.

First, there are the middle-of-the-road parties which support democratic government. They have been in power since the end of the war. In the 1948 nation-wide elections, these parties received about 62 per cent of the total votes. However, in provincial elections held in 1951 and 1952 throughout Italy, candidates of these parties received only 50 per cent of the ballots.

The second largest group includes the communists and their followers. They received about 31 per cent of the votes in the last general election. In the more recent elections they received 33 per cent of the ballots.

The third group is a coalition of extremely conservative parties. They include the monarchists, who would like to see a king restored in Italy, and some of Mussolini's followers, who would prefer a return to fascism. This group polled only five per cent of the votes in the 1948 election, but in the balloting of 1951-52 its share of the votes had risen to 10 per cent.

In short, the democratic, middle-of-the-road parties still make up the strongest combination in Italy, but they have lost ground. The communists, who would align Italy with Russia, seem to be holding their strength, and continue to pose a powerful threat to the government. The conservative groups, who want to replace the present leadership with a king or dictator,

are still small but are gaining in strength. There are also a number of small, "splinter" parties who wield little influence.

De Gasperi and the other government leaders, reviewing the political lineup in Italy, realize they will have to wage a vigorous campaign to stay in power. Nevertheless, they feel that they will be able to keep control of the government.

One reason for their guarded optimism is a new law which was recently passed. It provides that any party or coalition of parties that receives more than 50 per cent of the votes in the national election will be given 65 per cent of the seats in parliament.

Strong Opposition

The election law was advocated by the group now in control and was passed in spite of the opposition of the communists and others who claimed that the law was unfair, undemocratic, and a "fraud." The government leaders defended the law as follows:

"Since Italy has so many parties, several of them usually have to cooperate in the legislature to obtain a working majority. If the majority groups have only slightly more than half of the seats in the legislature, they are always on the verge of trouble. A switchover of only a few of their members in voting on a particular issue can defeat them. Government, under such circumstances, cannot be effective or stable.

"On the other hand, a successful government will be assured if the majority coalition—even though it re-

ceives only 51 per cent of the votes in the election—is permitted to hold 65 per cent of the legislative seats. That will mean a clear-cut majority when important bills come up for a vote."

The communists are enraged over the new act. They know that they cannot expect to get a majority of the popular vote in the coming elections, and therefore cannot benefit by the law. The democratic parties, on the other hand, think that they will receive more than 50 per cent of the ballots at the polls, and, if so, the new law will strengthen their position of leadership in the legislature.

Communism's strength in Italy is tied up with the country's deep-set, economic problems. Italy is a poor land with far too many people for its limited resources. In an area a bit larger than the state of Arizona, Italy has to support more than 47 million people. She has more than 400 persons per square mile as compared to about 52 per square mile in the United States.

Despite the fact that much of Italy is mountainous and rocky, about one third of the people make a living off the land. The best farm land is in the Po River Valley of northern Italy. Among the principal crops are wheat and sugar beets. In the southern part of the country the farmers are usually very poor. Average per capita income throughout Italy as a whole is less than \$350 per year as compared to about \$1,500 in the U. S.

The Po River Valley is also the principal manufacturing region. Here, where water power is abundant, there are many textile plants, and such food

products as macaroni, olive oil, and cheese are processed. Milan and Turin are bustling industrial centers. However, Italy lacks the coal, iron, and petroleum that a country needs to become a major industrial nation.

In Italy's poverty and in lack of opportunity for young people are found the roots of both communism and fascism. Many disgruntled Italians focus their resentment on the government. Shortsightedly they fail to see that they would be far worse off if the communists or fascists were to get into power.

One of Italy's most serious problems is that of unemployment. More than two million Italians are out of work. At least 25 per cent of this total are said to be young people, trying to get their first jobs.

Italy once solved her unemployment problem—at least, in part—through emigration. In the early years of this century, hundreds of thousands of Italians settled in other lands. In 1913, when Italian emigration reached its high tide, almost 900,000 citizens of Italy moved abroad. Many of them came to the United States.

Barriers Were Erected

Emigration can no longer help to take care of Italy's large population. The United States and most other countries today restrict immigration. When Secretary of State Dulles visited Italy in January, Italian officials stressed the need for lowering immigration barriers that have been thrown up throughout the world.

Whether Italy will make any immediate headway in resettling her people remains to be seen. A substantial lowering of immigration barriers would require a reversal of policy on the part of the United States and many other countries. But as long as immigration is restricted, tremendous pressures will be placed on Italy's limited resources.

Another big problem pertains to trade. Since Italy is so short in basic raw materials, she has to import large quantities to keep her factories busy and to feed her people. Among her principal imports are cotton, coal, coke, wool, grain, and oil.

To earn dollars to buy raw materials, Italy sells such manufactured products as machinery and cotton cloth. At present her principal income is from the sale of machine tools—for example, sewing machines, adding machines, and typewriters. Unfortunately, though, Italy is buying a good deal more from other nations, particularly us, than she sells to them, and as she tries to increase her sales, she finds that rising tariff barriers and other trade restrictions are blocking her.

The Italian government wants the United States and other lands to lower tariffs, so that she can sell more of her manufactured products abroad. Her concern over this situation is illustrated in a recent controversy with the U. S. over brier pipes.

Italy makes low-priced brier pipes and in recent years has shipped many into the United States for sale in this country. The same kind of pipes are also made in the U. S. Since labor costs are low in Italy, Italian manufacturers can have the pipes sent to America and put on sale at a lower price than U. S. manufacturers can meet.

As a result, U. S. pipe makers faced dropping sales and the threat of going out of business. They asked that a higher tax, or tariff, be placed on brier

pipes entering the United States. A higher tariff would add to the cost of each Italian pipe, and would presumably make the pipes so expensive that they could not compete with the U. S. product and would no longer enter the country.

As yet, no decision has been made as to whether or not the tariff will be raised, but the request has brought a strong protest from Italy. The Italians ask: "How can we earn the dollars we need to get along if you are going to raise tariffs and keep our products from entering your country?"

In itself, the brier pipe controversy is not of major importance, for it does not directly affect many people either in the United States or in Italy. Nevertheless, it illustrates one of the most difficult problems that Italy faces as she tries to build up a thriving economy. If tariffs are raised on their products, Italians believe that their trade will wither away, and unemployment will become more acute. Only the communists and fascists would benefit from that situation.

Unemployment and lagging trade are major unsolved problems that the de Gasperi government faces as the election campaign goes into high gear. The communists and fascists are sure to emphasize these problems. In appealing to the voters, though, the democratic parties can point to several accomplishments in the past five years.

For example, the government has taken over some of the big estates and is breaking them up into small farms for landless farmers who are given 30 years to pay for the land. The de Gasperi coalition is also embarked on a housing program, and aims to keep its building rate at from 200,000 to 250,000 dwelling units a year.

The present Italian government has



PREMIER Alcide de Gasperi of Italy

met with considerable success in reforming the tax program and in curbing inflation. It is claimed that tax revenues have tripled, following reforms. Rising prices are no longer as serious a problem as they were a few years ago.

On the basis of these and other accomplishments, the de Gasperi government will, early in June, try to win the support of the Italian people at the polls. The progress of the campaign will be watched closely in the United States. We feel that we have a large stake in the Italian election, for we have given Italy almost 3 billion dollars worth of assistance since the end of World War II. If the democratic parties win a clear-cut victory, we can expect that the Italian government will tackle the tough problems that face it with renewed vigor, and will become a strong partner in the western alliance against communist aggression.



VIENNA, capital of Austria, is one of Europe's most famous cities. The above canal, which runs through the city, is a link of the Danube River.

Austria's Big Hope

After Years of Foreign Occupation, People of This Country Still Dream of Day When They Will Again Be Free

WILL Russia's new dictator, Georgi Malenkov, agree soon to a peace treaty for Austria? His attitude on this issue may give a clearer idea of how sincere are his talks about cooperation with us and our allies to build a peaceful world. Agreement should be easy to reach.

For one thing, Austria is much better off than Germany in the matter of government. Where Germany has two regimes—one for communist East Germany and the other for West Germany—Austria has a single national government. Russia has accepted the government of the Austrian Republic, which was formed after World War II in 1945. So there should be no cause for serious dispute on the question of government, as there is in Germany.

Russia does claim large sums of money and property from Austria, and we oppose the claims. A compromise could be worked out on this question, most Americans feel, if Russia genuinely wants to help end war dangers.

Although it seems that a treaty could be decided upon easily, Russia has blocked action for the past eight years. Treaty talks started in 1945. Agreement seemed near several times. Then, late in 1950, Russia quit going to treaty meetings being held in London. Two short meetings were held some weeks ago, but they got nowhere.

One reason for stalling may be that Russia doesn't want to take troops out of Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria. Russia says she keeps troops in the three countries to supervise shipment of supplies from Russia to her occupation forces in Austria. Actually, the troops are used to help Russia keep control of her neighbor lands. An Austrian peace treaty would end Russia's excuse for maintaining troops in any of these countries.

However, the policy of stalling on the treaty in the past was carried on under Dictator Joseph Stalin. Russia's new ruler, Malenkov, can change policy and help write an Austrian treaty quickly—if he is honestly willing to settle the problems that worry the world.

Austrians, of course, are hoping that a treaty will soon be written. Although they do have their own government, Russian, American, British, and

French troops still occupy their country. As in Germany, the occupation began at the end of World War II. The Austrians want to be rid of all foreign troops.

Austria is a land somewhat smaller than our state of Maine. Population of about seven million is a bit more than that of Michigan.

Mountains cover large parts of Austria, and the country is one of the most beautiful in Europe. Some of the Austrian Alps are snow-capped the year around, and the Alpine region is famous for its vacation resorts. Caring for tourists, in fact, is one of Austria's main businesses.

About a third of the people are farmers. Cattle and sheep graze in pastures in the valleys, and rye, wheat, oats, and barley are grown wherever there is flat land. Austria does not grow all the food she needs, however, and must buy large amounts from other countries.

Austria has valuable deposits of iron, copper, lead, and other minerals, and some oil. Mining and oil refining are important industries.

Manufacturing is also important. Products include automobiles and other machines, wood and metal products, textiles, hats and dresses for women, and chinaware. The stylish dresses and the chinaware are sold in many countries, including the United States.

SPORTS

AMATEUR wrestling is a sport which is becoming increasingly popular. High school tournaments are now held in about 20 states. Iowa and Oklahoma are among the states that have long been known for their outstanding high school wrestlers.

Wrestling enthusiasts contend that there is no sport which is any better for development of the body and physical conditioning. Wrestling is an especially good sport for those who are too small to compete in football or basketball, for each contestant competes against one of his own size.

In high school wrestling, there are 12 or 13 weight classifications. For example, those weighing 95 pounds or less compete against one another. Next classification is the 103-pound group, then comes the 112-pound division, and so on up the line.

High school matches are divided into three two-minute periods. Beginning the first period, the wrestlers are on their feet and try to take each other to the mat. The object is to hold the shoulders of one's opponent to the mat for two full seconds. If that happens, the match ends.

However, if the match is still going on at the end of the first two-minute period, a buzzer stops it. The referee flips a coin and directs one boy to call "heads" or "tails." Then the second period begins with the two down on the mat in a certain position specified by the rules. The winner of the toss has the choice of being above or beneath his opponent. In the third period the contestants take the same position on the mat with the order reversed.

Matches where no fall takes place are decided on a point basis. Points are awarded for various maneuvers, and the wrestler with more points wins. Any hold which endangers life or limb is illegal in amateur wrestling.

Where amateur wrestling is properly coached and is given publicity, it invariably proves to be one of the most popular school sports. It provides fast action, excitement, and is a real test of ability.

Amateur wrestling should not be confused with the professional exhibitions often seen on television. The latter with their foul tactics and "side show" stunts have misled many people to believe that amateur wrestling is also a gruesome "sport." The two types of wrestling are about as far apart as the north and south poles.



FOR EIGHT YEARS Russia has blocked a peace treaty for Austria. Agreement on a treaty now would help to lessen the free world's fear of new war.

Careers for Tomorrow

As a Machinist

THE skilled machinist's job is not routine. When assigned a piece of work, he must lay out his materials, decide which tools are to be used, follow a blueprint in cutting new parts, and smooth and finish the parts according to rigid specifications. Always, he must do his work accurately. A very slight error in measurement can ruin an expensive piece of metal and may cost the employee his job.

Vocational courses offer a good background for work in this field, but they are not considered thorough enough to permit a young man to qualify as a journeyman machinist. A four-year apprenticeship is usually required. In most localities, this on-the-job training is covered by an agreement signed by the apprentice and the employer. The agreement calls for classroom study and for periods when the apprentice works side by side with skilled machinists in the employer's shop. The agreement also specifies the starting wage and increases the apprentice is to get while he is learning the trade.

In the classroom, where about four hours a week are spent, the apprentice learns to read blueprints and studies mathematics, mechanical drawing, and similar subjects—some theoretical and some practical—related to his work. Through his on-the-job training, which covers 36 hours a week, he learns to use machine tools, assemble different types of machines, and make machine parts and tools. At the end of his apprenticeship, when he is a

qualified journeyman, he receives a certificate awarded in ceremonies similar to high school or college graduation.

If you are looking forward to becoming a machinist, you should take a general course in high school with emphasis on mathematics, physics, chemistry, and machine shop if it is available. The personal characteristics you should have are: a mechanical aptitude, a high degree of manual dexterity, and the ability to do very exact work.

Machinists are employed wherever machinery is used to any great extent—by the railroads, in textile mills, in automobile factories, in oil refineries, in steel mills, and so on.

Wherever machinists work, their incomes are usually good. Recent figures indicate that average wages are \$1.75 an hour, or \$70 a week for full-time work. Since these figures include the apprentices' earnings, as well as the journeymen's, the average for journeymen is higher.

A machinist can find opportunities for promotion. Most foremen and many other supervisory employees in machine shops started their careers as apprentices. In some instances, machinists with executive ability have reached high administrative positions in industry; and those with business ability have often established their own shops.

The advantages of being a machinist include the relatively high wages, the opportunities for promotion, the



BOARD OF EDUCATION, DETROIT
A STUDENT learning to be a machinist at a vocational high school

fact that jobs are available in most parts of the country, and the fact that the required training can be obtained while you earn at least part of your living expenses. Unless you like to work with machinery, though, you should not consider going into this field.

Information on apprenticeships in your vicinity can be obtained from the local office of your State Employment Service, or from personnel officers of local factories, shipyards, railroad shops, and the like. Pamphlets discussing apprenticeships in general can be secured free of charge from the Bureau of Apprenticeship, U. S. Department of Labor, Washington 25, D. C. A brief historical discussion entitled "Apprenticeship—Past and Present," which costs 15 cents, and a booklet entitled "Machine Shop Occupations," costing 20 cents, can be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. Enclose coin if you order either of these last two items.

Study Guide

U. S. Defenses

1. Describe the demobilization policy that the United States followed immediately after World War II.
2. How many men and women do we now have in the U. S. armed forces?
3. How much faster were we producing military supplies and equipment at the beginning of 1953 than when the Korean war started?
4. Briefly describe some of the new and improved weapons we now produce.
5. At what rate are men now being drafted into the armed forces?
6. What criticism has been made of the administrative and office procedures that our military establishment uses?
7. Why did the Truman administration spread out defense orders among a large number of manufacturing plants?
8. What does Senator Stuart Symington think of our present defense preparations? What does Defense Secretary Charles Wilson appear to think of them?

Discussion

1. Do you favor the idea of granting liberal draft deferments for the purpose of letting young men finish college or work in defense plants? Why or why not?
2. On the basis of your present information, do you think our defense program is adequate? Give reasons for your answer.

Italy

1. Why is June 7 an important date to Italians?
2. Describe the line-up of political parties in Italy.
3. Why did the new electoral law bring about a controversy among the Italian political groups?
4. What are some of the reasons why communism remains strong in Italy?
5. Why is the unemployment problem hard to solve?
6. Describe the trade problem faced by Italy.
7. What are some of the positive accomplishments of the de Gasperi government?

Discussion

What do you think is Italy's most serious problem? Tell why, and what you believe might be done to help in solving it.

Miscellaneous

1. Where is Laos and why is it in the news?
2. Summarize the political career of Alcide de Gasperi.
3. What negotiations are now taking place at Panmunjom?
4. How was the political situation in Japan changed by the latest national balloting?
5. What new job does Leonard Hall have? Who is Stephen Mitchell?
6. Why, according to many industrialists and scientists, will it take some time before atomic energy becomes widely used in private business?
7. Under what conditions, according to President Eisenhower, can real world peace be achieved?
8. Briefly describe the duties of the Central Intelligence Agency. Who is the director of this agency?

Pronunciations

Alcide de Gasperi—al-ché-dé dē gā-spé-ré
Hanoi—hā-noi
Laos—lā'ōs
Saigon—sī-gōn'
Thailand—tī'land
Tia Savang Vathayana—tyā sā-vāng vā'tā-yā'nā

Answers to Your Vocabulary

1. (a) fearless; 2. (b) sparkling; 3. (c) decay; 4. (c) greedy; 5. (d) tiny bit; 6. (b) fear; 7. (b) hardened; 8. (d) putting things off.

Historical Background - - Our "Best Buy"

JUST 150 years ago Uncle Sam made what is generally regarded as the "best buy" in our history: the famous Louisiana Purchase. We obtained title to the huge Louisiana Territory from France in a treaty dated April 30, 1803.

We bought roughly 885,000 square miles of land extending westward from the Mississippi River into the Rocky Mountains, and northward from the Gulf of Mexico to Canada. Out of the territory later were formed Arkansas, Iowa, Missouri, and Nebraska, and parts of Louisiana, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota. (Note: the area was somewhat roughly defined at the time of purchase, for much of it had not been explored.)

For the huge, rich region—which roughly doubled the size of the United States overnight—we paid only about four cents an acre. The initial purchase price was \$15,000,000. We agreed also to pay various claims for damages to French citizens and some other costs in bringing about the transfer of the territory. The total cost, it is estimated, was about \$27,000,000.

How much is the area that made up the Louisiana territory worth today? Billions upon billions of dollars, certainly. It's impossible to say. But the region contains vast stores of gold, copper, oil, and other minerals. There are factories valued at many billions of dollars. The corn, wheat, rye, oats,

and other agricultural wealth is stupendous.

Iowa's corn crop alone was worth over \$778,000,000 in 1951! North Dakota's wheat crop was valued at over \$318,000,000! The total income for Illinois, both a manufacturing and farming state, was more than 15 billion dollars in 1950!

Our wish to use the Mississippi as a trade route led to the Louisiana Purchase. France had ceded the Louisiana Territory to Spain in the 1760's. In later years, the Spanish interfered with our ships using the Mississippi. Frequently, the Spanish

the French Empire in the New World, and eventually to break British power by conquering Canada.

We learned of the restoration of the Louisiana region to France in 1802. President Thomas Jefferson at once sent James Monroe to Paris to talk with Napoleon. Jefferson wanted only to buy the Port of New Orleans and some territory around it, so that we could be sure of an exit from the Mississippi into the Gulf of Mexico.

When Monroe arrived in France, however, he found that conditions had changed. Napoleon had suffered a disastrous military defeat in an attack on Haiti in the Caribbean Sea. Haiti, as well as the Louisiana Territory, was to have been a part of the empire Napoleon was planning.

Having been defeated in Haiti, Napoleon decided to give up his plans for establishing power in our hemisphere. He needed money to pay the cost of his European wars. So Napoleon made a surprising offer to Monroe and Robert Livingston, our minister to France. Instead of selling just the port of New Orleans, he offered us the whole Louisiana Territory. Jefferson decided to buy it.

A good many Americans didn't approve of the purchase. There was a fight in Congress over the bill. Some congressmen thought there was doubt about the legality of the purchase; they felt that Spain might still claim title to the land that France had sold. Others were shocked at the "high price" of the territory.



GOODE, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
NAPOLEON of France (left) and President Thomas Jefferson played leading roles in the Louisiana Purchase 150 years ago

charged high taxes on our river boats, or refused completely to let them unload goods onto ocean-going ships at New Orleans.

Then, in 1800, the famous Napoleon, ruler of France, got Spain to return the Louisiana territory to him. Napoleon was having trouble in war with Great Britain. He decided to restore